



Employers' Workshop Occupational Safety and Health and ILO Conventions 11 May 2023 in Islamabad

1. Introduction

Safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work. Creating safe, healthy, and productive working environments is an increasingly important agenda for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The provincial governments have developed and enacted provincial OSH legislation and policies, aiming at extending effective OSH protection and services to workers and promoting responsible businesses.

The International Labour Standards on the Safe and healthy working environment, Conventions No.155 on Occupational Safety and Health and No.187 on Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, were added at the 110th International Labour Conference to the existing fundamental principles and rights at work. The adoption of the OSH measures requires the ILO member states to respect and promote these principles and rights, irrespective of whether they have ratified the relevant conventions.

Pakistan is a beneficiary of the European Union's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP+), which provides tariff-free access to European markets for a range of product lines. The GSP+ status is conditional upon ratification and implementation of the ILO's core labour Conventions. Another priority area for the EU is the adaptation and implementation of occupational safety and health laws. EU has noticed in their Joint Report submitted to the European Parliament and the Council on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2018-2019 that one of the conclusions for monitoring priorities is to improve occupational safety and health of workers.¹

The government of Pakistan is considering ratifying the two OSH Conventions Nos. 155 and 187. By ratifying these Conventions, Pakistan would demonstrate its commitment to respect and promote these principles and rights, create and maintain safe, healthy, and productive workplaces where workers are protected against OSH hazards and risks, and promote continuously a national preventive safety and health culture. In this regard, it is also important that all key stakeholders are consulted and have a greater awareness of both Conventions and related obligations.

The *International Labour and Environmental Standards Application in Pakistan's SMEs* (ILES) project is an ILO development cooperation project funded by the European Union. Its overall objective is to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in Pakistan by supporting the economic integration of Pakistan into global and regional economies and improving compliance with labour and environmental standards and increasing competitiveness. One of the project's target areas of support is to strengthen the capacity of the government, workers' and employers in the implementation of labour-related legislation on occupational safety and health. Amongst employers, the support to EFP is contributing to the implementation of the developed roadmap towards future ratification of C.155 and C.187 by Pakistan as identified as the result of the national OSH workshop organized in Islamabad on 13-15 September 2022, activity #4.

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e01fc63a-5327-11ea-aece-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>



2. Objectives

The objective of this technical assistance is to support the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) to hold a nationwide consultation and awareness-raising campaign with enterprises and businesses and its members in each province and ICT and to share and discuss the content, together with the process towards future ratification of the ILO Conventions No. 155 and 187. These activities will also mark World OSH Day in April 2023.

3. Expected results

It is expected that the workshops will increase the understanding of employers and enterprises on the ILO Convention No. 155 and 187 and relevant national and provincial legislations. It is also expected the EFP will be able to consolidate its members' support on the decision for the future ratification of the conventions by Pakistan.

Participants: Around 65 participants representing employers, preferably the Senior Management and Professionals.

Draft Agenda – Islamabad Workshop
11 May 2023 at Islamabad Industrial Association

Time	Programme	Speakers/ Resource Person
09.30 - 10.00	Registration	EFP
10.00 - 10.10	Opening and welcoming remarks by EFP	EFP
10.10 – 10.20	Remarks by Islamabad Industrial Association	IIA
10.20 - 10.30	Remarks by International Labour Organization Country Office to Pakistan	ILO
10.30 – 11.00	Session 1: Presentation on ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention No. 155 and 187 on Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention	ILO/ILES Project
11.00 – 11.15	Tea break	
11.15 – 12.00	Session 2: OSH as an essential element for promoting responsible and sustainable businesses OSH committee at workplace	EFP's OSH expert
12.00 – 12.30	Session 3: Enterprise examples on OSH implementation	EFP's OSH expert
12:30 – 13:00	Session 4: Pakistan OSH case study in SME	ILO/ILES Project
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch and pray break	
14.00 – 14.45	Session 5: Group discussion on concerns and readiness of employers to support the ratification of C. 155 & 187	Facilitated by EFP
14.45 – 15.15	Session 6: Presentation on results of group discussion	Facilitated by EFP
15.15 – 16.30	Closing remarks	EFP